

**Occasional Papers**  
OF THE  
**Boston Society of Natural History.**

NEW AND INTERESTING SPECIES OF DIPTERA.

BY CHARLES W. JOHNSON.

THIS paper adds two interesting genera to the New England fauna: *Spania* and *Hilarimorpha*, belonging to the family Rhagionidae (Leptidae). A new species of *Allognosta* of the family Stratiomyiidae is also described, with a note on *Allognosta similis* Loew.

***Spania nigra* Meigen.**

*Spania nigra* Meig., Syst. Besch., vol. 6, p. 335, tab. 66, f. 12-14, 1830.

Among the material collected at Witch Hole Pond, near Bar Harbor, Maine, June 21, 1921, was a single male specimen of what is evidently this interesting little species. It agrees with the description, except for a discrepancy in the venation. The venation, however, is exceedingly variable in European specimens, and this inconstancy is described by Verrall (*British Flies*, vol. 5, p. 318, 1909) as follows: "The two upper veinlets from the discal cell usually sessile, but frequently separated (sometimes widely) and not uncommonly petiolate as in *Ptiolina*, while the third veinlet is usually abbreviated, but is sometimes complete; it is also not uncommon to find a spurious cross-vein connecting the two upper veinlets from the discal cell soon after their origin and



FIG. 1.—*Spania nigra* Meigen. Typical venation, after Meigen.

FIG. 2.—Venation in a specimen from near Bar Harbor, Maine.

thereby forming a small complete cell above the end portion of the discal cell, discal cross-vein hardly before the middle of the discal cell; anal cell sometimes barely closed or sometimes distinctly petiolate; it is very usual to find the venation varying differently in the two wings." In the specimen before me the anterior or

"discal cross-vein" is decidedly before the middle of the discal cell. The most striking feature of the venation in this specimen, however, and a variation not mentioned by Verrall, is the position of the fifth vein, as the posterior cross-vein is wanting and the vein extends to the edge of the discal cell; the fusing gives the appearance that it was a part of the fourth vein as shown in Figure 2. If this variation should prove constant I would propose the name *americana*. The typical venation, as figured by Meigen, is shown in Figure 1. A true representative of the genus *Spania* has not before been recorded from North America. Specimen in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History.

*Ptiolina edeta* (Walker).

*Spania edeta* Walker, List Dipt., pt. 3, p. 489, 1849.

This species belongs to the genus *Ptiolina*. I have taken it on the "Alpine Garden" (5000 feet), Mt. Washington, New Hampshire, July 4, 1914. It has also been recorded from Alaska by Coquillett.

*Hilarimorpha pusilla*, sp. nov.

♂.—Head and antennae black, the third joint of the antenna about twice as long as wide, minutely pubescent, and the two-jointed style slightly more than one-half its length; ocelli yellow, prominent. Thorax and abdomen dull black with a thin brownish pollen. Halteres dark brown. Legs light brown. Wings brown, with darker-brown vein, the venation similar to the figure given in Williston's Manual (fig. 1, p. 160) except that the second basal cell is slightly longer. Length 2.5 mm.

Two specimens: *holotype*, Hanover, New Hampshire, July 7, 1908; *paratype*, Norwich, Vermont, July 8, 1908. In the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History.

ALLOGNOSTA Osten Sacken.

*Table of Species.*

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Abdomen with the center more or less yellowish . . . . .  | 2.                            |
| Abdomen a uniform black or bronze . . . . .  | 3.                            |
| 2. Thorax and scutellum black, discal cell large and angular, halteres dark brown at the base of the knobs . . . . . | <i>fuscitaris</i> Say.        |
| Thorax and scutellum dark bluish green, discal cell small and less angular, halteres entirely yellow . . . . .       | <i>similis</i> Loew.          |
| 3. Antennae with the third joint long and cylindrical, pleura black . . . . .  | <i>obscuriventris</i> Loew.   |
| Antennae with the third joint short and conical, pleura reddish . . . . .  | <i>brevicornis</i> , sp. nov. |

*Allognosta similis* (Loew).

*Metoponia similis* Loew, Cent. IV, 44, 1863.

A study of the types shows that two species are involved. They consist of two males, one bearing the label *similis*, in

Loew's handwriting, the other "New York, Schaum." The description is based entirely on the first specimen, as the following lines show: "Dorsum et scutellum ex nigro viridis . . . cellula discoidali quam Metoponiae fuscitarsis Say multo minore." The other specimen is pure black with a larger discal cell,—a typical *Allognosta fuscitarsis* Say, and the locality of the type was evidently inadvertently transferred to this species. This leaves the type without a locality. It is pinned precisely like a specimen of *Allognosta obscuriventris* Loew, labeled "D. C." collected by Osten Sacken and described at the same time. I have little doubt that this specimen was also collected by Osten Sacken, who in Record of My Life Work in Entomology, p. 94, says: "Many specimens in both collections will be found without any indication of locality. Most of them are specimens of my own early collecting, principally about Washington, D. C. In sending them to Loew I always informed him of the localities, which for this reason ought to be found recorded in his description." The above conclusion as to the locality for this species is strengthened by the presence of two females in the Nathan Banks Collection taken at Falls Church, Virginia, June 28 and July 5, and a specimen from Petersburg, Virginia, June 1, in the collection of Dr. J. Bequaert. The size of the discal cell is about the same as in *Allognosta obscuriventris*, but the greenish-blue thorax and scutellum, brown abdomen, and yellow halteres readily separate it from that species.

*Allognosta brevicornis*, sp. nov.

♂.—Frontal triangle black, slightly pollinose, face white, with fine blackish hairs, palpi black, proboscis yellow, brown above; antennae reddish, the base of the second joint and the eight annuli of the third joint black, the latter conical and less than twice the length of the basal portion; eyes contiguous, the facets on the lower third of the eye minute. Thorax and scutellum black, shiny, covered with short black hairs; humeri and post-alar callosities brown, pleura reddish brown, black on the middle. Abdomen a uniform dark bronze, shining. Halteres black. Legs yellow, the tip of all the tibiae and the front and middle tarsi entirely black, hind metatarsi yellow, the tip and remaining joints black. Wings tinged with brown, the large stigma and veins dark brown. Length 4.5 mm.

♀.—Front black, shining, a slight central depression and a transverse line above the antennae at about the middle of the head; below this line and the face whitish, pollinose, base of the palpi reddish, and the antennae a brighter red than in the male; pleura entirely red, sternum black. Halteres reddish. In other respects resembling the male.

Thirteen specimens. *Holotype* and *allotype*: Norwich, Vermont, July 7, 1908. *Paratypes*: Mt. Greylock, Massachusetts, June 15, 1906; Jaffrey, New Hampshire, June 18, 1923; and Salisbury Cove, Mt. Desert, Maine, July 12, 1923 (C. W. J.); Bolton Mt., Vermont, July 15, 1922 (Owen Bryant), all in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History; New Hampshire (Osten

Sacken) in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy; and specimens from Claremont, New Hampshire, June 20, and Lake Tear, Essex County, New York, July 21, in Dr. J. Bequaert's and the author's collections. In regard to Osten Sacken's specimen, that author in Record of My Life Work in Entomology, p. 95, says: "Diptera marked 'N. H.' on white square, printed labels, were all collected by me in the White Mountains, New Hampshire, whether my name is mentioned or not."